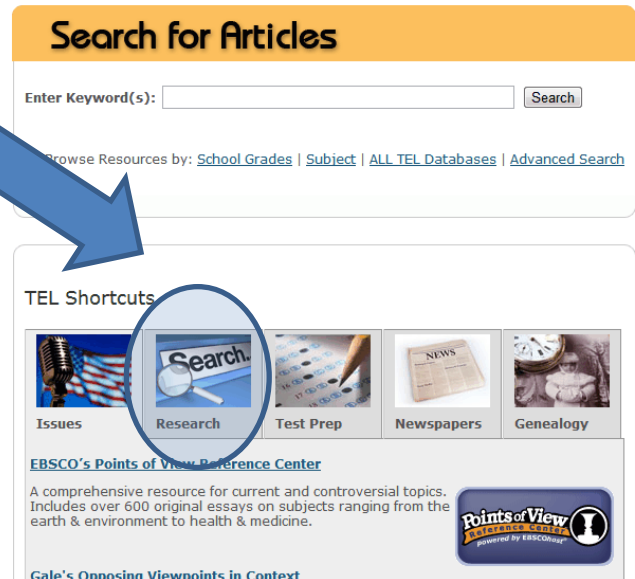


Using the TN Electronic Library to Find Secondary, Scholarly Sources

Although this guide uses the TEL, it is likely useful for any online database.

- 1) Google **Tennessee Electronic Library**
- 2) After you get to the home page, click on the **Research** tab



- 3) Click on **Gale PowerSearch**



- 4) Check the box to limit results to **Peer-reviewed Publications**
This makes certain you're using scholarly sources, which most (if not all) academic essays should rely on (outside of primary sources)



5) Choose your search options.

- a) **Keyword** is a tag that has been attached to describe the article. Articles typically have multiple keywords. e.g. An essay on Chaucer's use of images of the Christian Cross in *The Canterbury Tales* might be tagged with "Canterbury Tales", "Geoffrey Chaucer", "Cross", "Christian Symbols", etc. This is the recommended category for most users.
- b) **Entire Document** searches the entirety of documents for the search string. This can be useful, but it will also return a LOT of results that aren't related, especially if you don't use advanced search setting (e.g. searching "Canterbury Tales" can return a document with the word Canterbury (which is a place in England) even if it doesn't have any reference to Chaucer's poem).
- c) The other two categories are not recommended. An explanatory box will pop up if you hover the mouse cursor over them, if you're interested.



- 6) After you have initiated the search, on the left, you will see a box of Search Filters.
- a) **Related Subjects** limits your search results for “Canterbury Tales” to results that ALSO include “Medieval Literature” as a keyword.
 - b) **Document Types** limits your search results by the type of document. Duh. For your purposes, you will want to limit it to Critical Essays, and possibly come back to look in Articles and Essays if you need more sources.

Content Types

 **Academic Journals** (234)

 [More Results](#)

Limit Search by

RELATED SUBJECTS:

[Chaucer, Geoffrey](#) (65)
[The Canterbury Tales...](#) (48)
[Medieval literature](#) (12)
[literature](#) (11)
[Middle English perio...](#) (9)

 [View More](#)

DOCUMENT TYPES:

[Book review](#) (107)
[Article](#) (64)
[Critical essay](#) (40)
[Brief article](#) (22)
[Essay](#) (5)

 [View More](#)

- 7) You can check the box next to an essay if you want to save it, so you can come back to it. I prefer to just open each essay in its own tab, if I plan to read them right away. When you select an essay, start by reading the Abstract to see what the essay contains.

Abstract: Among the many issues raised in Chaucer's literary works, religious skepticism in particular is dominant. This skepticism seems to be enhanced by an overwhelming sense of uncertainty, mutability, and doubt leading to currents of thought that question theist assumptions, particularly skepticism, and naturalism. Being a "mirror to his age" Chaucer's skepticism could be easily traced through an extensive utilization of astrology, astronomy, and mythological figures as decisive forces and possible controllers of this world. This becomes so important when Christianity assigns total control of the universe to God. We may then assume that Chaucer deliberately exposes his doubt through a frequent questioning of man's destiny and free will with a heavy articulation on paganism which was not totally off the scene in Chaucer's England. His treatment of these issues provides a testimonial evidence to a widening split in the theologian doctrine among the public, and within his own mind. The **Canterbury Tales**, Troilus and Criseyde, and Book of The Duchesse are only examples that provide ample evidence to his religious skepticism.

- 8) If, after reading the essay, you decide that you want to use it as a source, scroll down to the bottom of the essay and copy the citation information. Do this first, before you start quoting or copying/pasting. The information you'll want looks like this:

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

Mohammed, Mahameed, and Al-Quran Raji. "Chaucer's religious skepticism." *Nebula* 8.1 (2011): 199+. *Academic OneFile*. Web. 7 Sep. 2012.

Document URL

http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA291354367&v=2.1&u=tel_s_tsla&it=r&p=GPS&sw=w

- 9) In order to keep things straight, open up a word editor (MS Word, Wordpad, Notebook, etc.) and paste the citation information in. Then, beneath it, copy enough of the passage containing the quote you want to give you a sense of the context of the quote (quoting out of context is bad, and if you go a day or two between reading and using your quote, you may forget the context).

Mohammed, Mahameed, and Al-Quran Raji. "Chaucer's religious skepticism." *Nebula* 8.1 (2011): 199+. *Academic OneFile*. Web. 7 Sep. 2012.

Similarly, Chaucer seems confused at times and unable to decide whether or not man should be held responsible for his actions as Christianity maintains. His treatment of both issues conforms to the general atmosphere of uncertainty and skepticism prevalent in his time. His frustration at the complexity of them is well noticed throughout many works of his.

- 10) Rinse and repeat. If you use more quotes from the same source, paste them below your first one. Create a new section in the word editor for each source. This will help you later, when you have several sources and need to cite them accurately. I would keep this document until at least after the essay has been graded, just in case your instructor/professor has questions about your source material.